

55. A gaming machine comprising:

a chassis defining a gaming machine interior region and a gaming machine exterior surface;

a gaming machine controller for controlling the outcome of a primary game played on said gaming machine;

a main display capable of presenting the outcome of the primary game on the gaming machine;

a player tracking device mounted on said chassis, said player tracking device comprising,

(a) a display, separate from said main display,

(b) one or more interfaces designed or configured to input player tracking information into the gaming machine;

(c) a network interface designed or configured to send and to receive player tracking information over a player tracking network;

(d) a logic device, separate from the gaming machine controller, designed or configured to send player tracking information to the gaming machine controller,

wherein the gaming machine controller is designed or configured to cause player tracking information and video content related to the player tracking information to be displayed on the main display.

REMARKS

Claims 29- 52 are currently pending in the application. Claims 29-52 were rejected. Claims 29, 42, 51 and 52 have been amended. Claim 53, 54 and 55 have been added.

The Examiner noted that the information disclosure statement filed 7/14/00 fails to comply with 37 CFR 1.98(a)(2), which requires a legible copy of each U.S. and foreign patent listed. Thus, the disclosure statement was been placed in the application file but the information referred therein was not considered. The information disclosure statement filed 7/14/00 is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 (d) which requires

a copy of any patent, publication, pending U.S. application or other information as specified in paragraph (a) of this section, listed in an information disclosure statement is required to be provided, even if the patent, publication, pending U.S. application or other information was previously submitted to, or cited by, the office in an earlier application, unless: (1) The earlier application is properly identified in the information disclosure statement and is replied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120; and (2) The information disclosure statement submitted in the earlier application complies with paragraphs (a) through (c) of this section.

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Thus, the documents listed in the information disclosure statement filed 7/14/00 were not provided. Nevertheless, if the examiner believes obtaining the documents listed in the information disclosure statement filed 7/14/00 will be difficult, applicants will submit a copy of the cited documents.

The Examiner rejected claims 29, 35, 38-42, and 52 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Claypole et al., (GB 2,262, 642). Claims 29, 42, 51 and 53 have been amended and the rejection is respectively traversed.

Claypole describes a slot machine with a main display, a secondary video display and a gaming machine controller (See FIG. 1) Claypole does not describe a player tracking device of any type connected to a network and used to input player tracking information. Further, the slot machine in Claypole is described as a "stand-alone" unit, i.e., it is not connected to any external sources. In addition, Claypole does not teach or suggest any motivation for connecting the slot machine in Claypole to an external source.

The present invention, as cited in claims 29, 51, 52, 53 and 55 for example, provides gaming machine generally characterized as including (1) a chassis defining a gaming machine interior region and a gaming machine exterior surface, (2) a gaming machine controller for controlling the outcome of a primary game played on said gaming machine, (3) a main display capable of presenting the outcome of the primary game on the gaming machine, (4) a secondary display, which is a flat panel display, provided on the gaming machine at a location disposed apart from the main display and displaying video content and (5) a player tracking device mounted within the chassis. The player tracking device may be generally characterized as including: (i) a display, separate from the main display and the secondary display, (ii) one or more interfaces designed or configured to input player tracking information into the gaming machine, (iii) a network interface designed or configured to send and to receive player tracking information over a player tracking network and (iv) a logic device, separate from the gaming machine controller, designed or configured to send player tracking information to the gaming machine controller. The gaming machine controller is designed or configured to display player tracking information and video content related to the player tracking information to at least one of the main display and the secondary display.

In contrast, Claypole does not describe a player tracking device of any type used to input player tracking information. Further, Claypole does not describe any devices used to send and to receive player tracking information over a player tracking network. Also, Claypole does not describe player tracking functions or player tracking information in any manner. Thus, in Claypole, since player tracking functions are not considered, player tracking information is not available for display on at least one of the main display and the secondary display. Thus, Claypole does not anticipate, claims 29, 35, 38-42, and 52 and the rejection is believed overcome.

The Examiner rejected claims 34, 36, and 37 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable. In view of the foregoing discussion with regard to the Claypole reference, the rejection is believed overcome for at least the reasons discussed.

The Examiner rejected claims 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Claypole in view of Kennedy (GB 2072 395). Kennedy does not describe a player tracking device of any type used to input player tracking information. Further, Kennedy does not describe any devices used to send and to receive player tracking information over a player tracking network. Also, Kennedy does not describe player tracking functions or player tracking information in any manner. Thus, in view of the foregoing discussion with regard to the Claypole reference, the rejection is believed overcome for at least the reasons discussed.

The Examiner rejected claims 33 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Claypole in view of Okada (U.S. Patent Number 4,718,672). Okada does not describe a player tracking device of any type used to input player tracking information. Further, Okada does not describe any devices used to send and to receive player tracking information over a player tracking network. Also, Okada does not describe player tracking functions or player tracking information in any manner. Thus, in view of the foregoing discussion with regard to the Claypole reference, the rejection is believed overcome for at least the reasons discussed.

The Examiner rejected claims 48 and 49 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Claypole in view of Thomas (GB 2 182 186). Thomas does not describe a player tracking device of any type used to input player tracking information. Further, Thomas does not describe any devices used to send and to receive player tracking information over a player tracking network. Also, Thomas does not describe player tracking functions or player tracking information in any manner. Thus, in view of the foregoing discussion with regard to the Claypole reference, the rejection is believed overcome for at least the reasons discussed.


The examiner rejected claims 29-52 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-29 of U.S. patent No. 6, 135, 884. The applicant respectfully submits that the claims 29-52, as amended, are patentably distinct from the claims in U.S. patent No. 6, 135, 884 because independent claims 29, 42, and 51-55, for example, recite a player tracking device that receives player tracking information and that is connected to a player tracking network where the player tracking information can be displayed on at least one of a main display and a secondary display. These limitations are not recited in claims 1-29 of U.S. patent No. 6,135, 884.

Accordingly, a notice of allowance is respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below. Applicant(s) believes that no (additional) fees are due in connection with the filing of this response. However, if it



determined that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-0388 (Order No. IGT1P006C1).

Respectfully submitted,
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